

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Chris Bouchard	DPW Director, South Hadley	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Randy Brown	Director Southwick DPW	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Jason Skeels	Engineer, Amherst	Andy Krar	City Engineer, Springfield
Paul Burns	Director of Operations - PVTA	Chris Klem	MassDOT
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Derek Krevat	MassDOT-OTP
Tom Christensen	Deputy Director, East Longmeadow	Bill Dwyer	Planning Board, Hadley
Mark Cressotti	Engineering, Westfield	Ben Murphy	Town of Monson
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Dan Murphy	City Engineer, Easthampton
Doug Ellis	City Engineer, Chicopee	Carmen Rosado	Stavros
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning Director	Tom Ruta	MassDOT District 2
Dan Banister	Highway Dept, Williamsburg	Dmitriy Mayboroda	Project Manager, McMahon Assoc.
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
Laura Hanson	MassDOT District 2	Steve Williams	Belchertown
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT district 2	Matt Chase	PE, VHB
PVPC Staff			
Rana Al Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner		
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner		

1. Open Meeting

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux opened the JTC Zoom meeting at 10:15 a.m. and he asked PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul to perform a roll call.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. McCaul performed the roll call and stated that there was a quorum present. Mr. Roux asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of the February 16th JTC meeting.

MOVED BY STEVE WILLIAMS, OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, SECONDED BY MICHELLE CHASE, OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE March 9, 2022 MEETING

Mr. Roux called for a roll call vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES.

3. JTC Chair Discussion and Recruitment

Mr. Roux announced that PVPC will continue as interim JTC Committee Chair until a replacement is found for the currently vacant Chair. Mr. Roux stated the members are asked to reach out to PVPC staff if they would like to nominate another member or self-nominate. Mr. Roux stated that staff had sent out an email nomination request, to date we have not received any nominations.

Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to consider the opportunity of serving as the Chair of the JTC Committee and to contact Andrew McCaul if they are interested in the position or know of someone who might be interested so that this vacancy can be filled in the near future.

4 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Survey

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux explained the PVPC along with the other Massachusetts Regional Planning Agencies (RPA) are collecting information on projects that municipalities may be trying to get funded with BIL funding. The survey that will be email to all PVPC municipalities (questions listed below) will help PVPC to be better prepared to assist our municipalities in accessing and managing the funding

Please provide your contact information so we can follow up on any questions about IIJA.

- Name (required)
- Email (required)
- Municipality
- Role

Are there any specific projects your community is interested in advancing with IIJA funding?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

[IF YES TO ABOVE] Please describe the project you are looking to advance with IIJA funds, including its approximate cost.

Are there any specific ways your municipality would like assistance in accessing IIJA funds? Please indicate what kind of support would be helpful below.

- Administrative support
- Planning assistance
- Design assistance
- Other (please describe below)

What questions do you have about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act?

How can PVPC be helpful to you as more details about IIJA become available?

5. Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP)

PVTA Director of Operations Paul Burns explained that the goal CPT-HSTP is to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes. This is done by identifying existing gaps in services and providing a framework for project development. The CPT-HSTP provide various entities with a process for access FTA funding programs. Staff acknowledged that the plan was developed during the pandemic and that once ridership returns to an acceptable level, the plan may need to be updated.

Mark Cressotti, the Engineer for the City of Westfield, asked if the plan included the return of service to the Western Mass Hospital on East Mountain Road. Mr. Burns indicated that due to vertical and horizontal clearance issue at the train underpass it was not possible to return bus service to the hospital. Mr. Burns explained that PVTA was exploring other options including dial a ride or a shuttle to link the Hospital to the regular fixed route service.

Mr. Roux asked for a motion to recommend that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) released the CPT-HSTP for the required 21-day public review period.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, OF THE PVTA, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, FOR THE MPO TO RELEASE THE CPT-HSTP FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Roux called for a roll call vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES.

6. FFY Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux noted that at the last JTC meeting in March, he had stated that the FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will run from October 1st of this year to September 30th of next year and will share the same development and endorsement schedule as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roux explained that the UPWP layouts staff planning activities for the next Federal Fiscal Year. Mr. Roux explained the 2023 UPWP includes the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Mr. Roux then spoke about tasks related to planning emphasis areas and he reported those planning areas as *Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future; Equity and Justice⁴⁰; Complete Streets; Public Involvement; Strategic Highway Network; Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination; Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL); and Data in Transportation Planning*. Mr. Roux noted that all these related tasks will be addressed although extra planning may be needed for the *Strategic Highway Network*.

Mr. Roux indicated that a draft UPWP will be presented at the April JTC meeting with a request for a 21-day public review and comment period. Then the UPWP will be presented at the May MPO meeting for endorsement.

Mr. Roux asked for a motion to recommend that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) released the DRAFT FFY 2023 UPWP for the required 21-day public review period.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD, OF MASSBIKE, FOR THE MPO TO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2023 UPWP FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Roux called for a roll call vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES

7. FFY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Amendment

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reviewed the proposed changes to the FFY 2022 TIP. Mr. McCaul reminded the committee that the changes (listed below) were presented at last month's meeting. Mr.

McCaul reminded the committee that PVPC staff wanted to align the public review process for the FFY 2022 TIP amendment with the release of the FFY 2023-2027 TIP.

Proposed FFY 2022 TIP Amendment

FFY 2022

Section 1A Regionally Prioritized Projects

- Remove Holyoke project 606450 for \$9,811,762 (\$4,603,777 STBG and \$5,207,985 statewide funding) – Project will be rescoped
- Increase year 1 funding for West Springfield project 608374 from \$1,125,167 to \$10,435,163 (total project cost \$22,016,765)

****FFY 2023**

Section 1A Regionally Prioritized Projects

- Reduce year 2 funding for West Springfield project 608374 from \$18,169,796 to \$11,581,682 (total project cost \$22,016,765)

****FFY 2024**

Section 1A Regionally Prioritized Projects

- Remove year 3 funding (\$2,397,425) for West Springfield project 608374 (total project cost \$22,016,765)

****Changes will appear in Draft FFY2023-2027 TIP**

Mr. Roux asked for a motion to recommend that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) released the PROPOSED FFY 2022 TIP AMENDMENT for the required 21-day public review period.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY WAYNE FEIDEN, OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, FOR THE MPO TO RELEASE THE PROPOSED FFY 2022 TIP AMENDMENT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Roux called for a roll call vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES

8. 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Including a Review of the Updated Project Ranking; a Review and Discussion of the Current FFY 2023-2026 Project List and a Discussion of the Options for FFY 2027 Project List

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reviewed the development schedule that is shared by the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program saying that today April 13th, the JTC will perform a final review of the 2023-2027 TIP and recommend that the MPO release the TIP for public review. On April 26th, the MPO will review and release the draft 2023-2027 TIP and the draft UPWP for the required 21-day public review period. Mr. McCaul added that there will be a TIP public hearing on May 11th, and on May 24th, the MPO will endorse the 2023-2027 TIP and the 2023 UPWP.

Mr. Roux asked for a motion to recommend that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) released the DRAFT FFY 2023 - 2027 TIP for the required 21-day public review period.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY, OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD, OF MASSBIKE FOR THE MPO TO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2023-2027 TIP FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Roux called for a roll call vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES

9. Other Business

Mr. McCaul announced that the next PRC meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2022.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Roux asked if anyone had any other business and there being none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:30 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES

Relevant Documents Emailed for this March 9, 2022 JTC Meeting:

- *Joint Transportation March 9, 2022 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the February 16, 2022 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *TIP and UPWP Development Schedule - 2023-2027*
- *Draft PVMPO 2023 – 2027 TIP Project List*